

Hedgehog's Homework

Instructions: Read the following proclamation that appeared on the front page of *Rivington's Royal Gazette* in New York City on July 21, 1779. Then answer the questions on the back.

By HIS EXCELLENCY
Sir Henry Clinton, K. B.

General and Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Forces within the Colonies laying on the Atlantic Ocean, from Nova Scotia to West-Florida, inclusive, &c. &c.

PROCLAMATION.

PROTECTION and Encouragement is hereby given to the possessors of Farms, and Gardens, to raise plentiful supplies of Grain, Provisions, Vegetables, and Forage. — Whatever Person or Persons shall presume to take away, or destroy any Part of the Cattle, Stock, or other Produce of any Farm or Garden, or do any Damage to the Habitations, Gardens, Orchards, or Lands, destroy or break down the Fences, shall, upon Proof thereof, be most severely punished. Compliant to be made to the Commandant of New-York, or, to the Officer commanding the nearest Post of his Majesty's Troops.

Given under my Hand at Head Quarters, the Eighth Day of March, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-nine.

H. CLINTON

By his Excellency's Command,
JOHN SMITH, Secretary

Answer the following questions about the proclamation:

- Who issued the proclamation?

- Is the man who issued the proclamation a British general or an American general?

- Why do you think the British general would want to protect farmers and encourage them to grow food?

- Why do you think some people would want to destroy the food or the land?

- Do you think that the publisher of *Rivington's Royal Gazette* is a patriot or a Loyalist? Why?

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Answer the following questions about the proclamation:

- Who issued the proclamation?

Sir Henry Clinton

- Is the man who issued the proclamation a British general or an American general?

Sir Henry Clinton was a British general.

- Why do you think the British general would want to protect farmers and encourage them to grow food?

The farmers were supplying the British troops with food.

- Why do you think some people would want to destroy the food or the land?

Patriots wanted to destroy the food and damage the farms to make it more difficult for the British army to get a food supply.

- Do you think that the publisher of *Rivington's Royal Gazette* is a patriot or a Loyalist? Why?

The publisher of *Rivington's Royal Gazette* is a Loyalist because he prints the proclamations of the British army. (Prior to the outbreak of war, James Rivington printed a balanced view of the issues. However, the New York Sons of Liberty took exception to that fact. If you were not an ally of the patriots, you must be an enemy. They burned Rivington in effigy. After that, he printed for the Loyalists).

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PROCLAMATION

Whereas the Enemy have adopted a practice of enrolling

NEGROES

among the Troops ; I do hereby give Notice, That all NEGROES taken in Arms, or upon any Military Duty, shall be purchased for stated price ; the money to be paid to the Captors.

But I do most strictly forbid any Person to sell or claim Right over any NEGROE, the Property of a Rebel, who may take Refuge with any Part of this Army : And I do promise to every

NEGROE

Who shall desert the Rebel Standard, full security to follow within these Lines, any Occupation which he shall think proper.

Given under my Hand at Head-Quarters, PHILLIPSBURGH, the 30th Day of JUNE, 1779

H. CLINTON.

By his Excellency's Command,
JOHN SMITH, Secretary

Printed by James Rivington, Wall & Queen Street, New York City

Answer the following questions about the proclamation:

- Who issued the proclamation?

- Is the man who issued the proclamation a British general or an American general?

- Why do you think the British general would want to promise protection to the blacks who desert, or leave, the American army?

- Do you think that Hedgehog, or any other publisher of a patriot newspaper, would print this proclamation? Why or why not?

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- Who issued the proclamation?

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- Is the man who issued the proclamation a British general or an American general?

Sir Henry Clinton is a British general.

- Why do you think the British general would want to promise protection to the blacks who desert, or leave, the American army?

The British wanted to weaken Washington's army and build up their own. (Blacks served in many roles in the patriot cause, including soldiers primarily in the New England states like Rhode Island, and sailors on privateer ship. The British offered freedom to enslaved blacks who would fight for the Loyalist cause. This promise did not always become a reality, but thousands of slaves did fight with the British).

- Do you think that Hedgehog, or any other publisher of a patriot newspaper, would print this proclamation? Why or why not?

No, Hedgehog would not print this proclamation. *Hedgehog's Herald* is a patriot publication. By the third edition, it is clear that Hedgehog sympathizes with and supports the rebels. The patriot press would not print anything that would aid the British during the Revolutionary War. (However, *The New Hampshire Gazette, Or, Exeter Morning Chronicle*, did print a proclamation by Sir Henry Clinton in the July 13, 1776 edition. The printer included it with this heading, "The following Copy of a Proclamation was taken from a Manuscript enclosed in a Letter from North-Carolina, and is inserted to shew our Readers what sort of Commissioners we are to expect."

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Instructions: Read the following article that appeared on the front page of *The New Hampshire Gazette, Or, Exeter Morning Chronicle* on July 13, 1776. Then, pretend you are a Loyalist and rewrite the story from the point of view of someone who sympathizes with the British. The worksheet at the bottom should help you write your story on the back of this sheet.

From *The New Hampshire Gazette, Or, Exeter Morning Chronicle*:

New York, July 3, 1776

“Last Saturday arrived at the Hook (like a swarm of Locusts, escaped from the bottomless Pit) a Fleet said to be 130 Sail of Ships and Vessels from Halifax, having on board General Howe, &c. sent out by the Tyrants of Great-Britain, after destroying the English Constitution there, on the pious Design of enslaving the British Colonies and plundering their Property at pleasure, or murdering them at once, and taking possession of all, as Ahab did of Naboth’s Vineyard.

Story Worksheet:

Who: The British fleet, including British General Howe

What: Arrived

Where: At the Hook in the American colonies

When: June 26, 1776 (the Saturday before July 3, 1776)

Why: To use military force to end the American rebellion

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Example of a rewritten story:

New York, July 3, 1776

A large British fleet with our hero General Howe arrived at the Hook this past Saturday, June 26, to restore peace to His Majesty’s British colonies in America. Sent out by the merciful King and Parliament to protect loyal English citizens and their property, this fleet will overpower the miserable rebels who have brought death and destruction upon us.